IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 19 to 34 are pending in this application. Please cancel claims 1 - 18 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 19 - 34 as follows:

1 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (New) A storage system to be coupled to an IP network, said storage system comprising:

an input/output unit coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the input/output unit; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit, wherein the input/output unit is assigned to a first identifier for receiving block I/O requests via the IP network and is assigned to a second identifier for receiving file I/O requests via the IP network, and

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality of volumes each of which is designated to store either data related to the block I/O requests or data related to the file I/O requests.

20. (New) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein the control unit has a file system which executes the file I/O request and a volume management means which executes the block I/O requests.

21. (New) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein the first identifier and the second identifier are respectively a port number specified in TCP packets included in either the block I/O request or the file I/O request.

22. (New) A storage system to be coupled to an IP network, said storage system comprising:

an input/output port to be coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the input/output port; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit, wherein the input/output port is assigned to a first identifier for receiving block I/O requests via the IP network

and is assigned to a second identifier for receiving the file I/O requests via the IP network, and

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality of volumes, at least two of which are designated to store either data related to the block I/O requests or data related to the file I/O requests.

23. (New) A storage system according to claim 22, wherein the control unit has a file system which executes the file I/O request and a volume management means which executes the block I/O requests.

24. (New) A storage system according to claim 22, wherein the first identifier and the second identifier are respectively information related to a port number specified in TCP packets included in either the block I/O request or the file I/O request.

25. (New) A storage system to be coupled to an IP network, the storage system comprising:

a port to be coupled to the IP network;

a control unit coupled to the port; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit, wherein the port is assigned to a first identifier for receiving a block I/O request from a first processor coupled to the IP network and is assigned to a second identifier for receiving a file I/O request from a second processor coupled to the IP network, and

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a plurality volumes, a first volume of the volumes is designated to store data related to the block I/O request and a second volue of the volumes is designated to store data related to the file I/O request, and

wherein the first processor accesses the first volume of the volumes with the first identifier assigned to the port and the second processor accesses the second volume of the volumes with the second identifier assigned to the port.

26. (New) A storage system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit has a file system which executes the file I/O request and a volume management means which executes the block I/O requests.

27. (New) A storage system according to claim 25, wherein the first identifier and the second identifier are respectively information related to a port number specified in TCP packets included in either the block I/O request or the file I/O request.

28. (New) A storage system to be coupled to a network, said storage system comprising:
an input/output unit to be coupled to the network;

a control unit coupled to the input/output unit; and

a plurality of disk drives coupled to the control unit, wherein the input/output unit is assigned to a first identifier for receiving block I/O requests through the network and is assigned to a second identifier for receiving file I/O requests through the network,

wherein the plurality of disk drives are configured into a first volume and a second volume each of which is assigned to the first identifier and the second identifier so that the first volume stores data related to the block I/O requests and the second volume stores data related to the file I/O requests.

29. (New) A storage system according to claim 28, wherein the control unit has a file system which executes the file I/O request and a volume management means which executes the block I/O requests.

30. (New) A storage system according to claim 28, the first identifier and the second identifier are respectively information related to a port number specified in TCP packets included in either the block I/O request or the file I/O request.

31. (New) A storage system according to claim 19, wherein the control unit converts file data into a storage format for storing in the disk drives and converts the storage format data back into file data for outputting.

32. (New) A storage system according to claim 22, wherein the control unit converts file data into a storage format for storing in the disk drives and converts the storage format data back into file data for outputting.

33. (New) A storage system according to claim 25, wherein the control unit transforms file data into block data for storing in the disk drives and transforms the block data back into file data for outputting.

34. (New) A storage system according to claim 28, wherein the control unit converts file data into a storage format for storing in the disk drives and converts the storage format data back into file data for outputting.